

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)

)
Amendment of Part 95 of the)
Commission's Rules to)
Establish a Very Short distance)
Two-Way Voice Radio Service)

WT Docket 95-102

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Comments to a Notice of Proposed Rule Making

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GMRS Callsign: KAE9158

Signature: *Robin L. Smith*
September 21, 1995

FCC MAIL ROOM

I am currently licensed in the GMRS Radio Service (KAE9158) and control operator for the local REACT group GMRS repeater on 462.675 emergency and traveler assistance communications channel. I also hold an Advanced Amateur Radio license (AL7ML) which I have held for the past 20 plus years.

I am objecting to the FCC proposed "Family Radio Service" in the GMRS spectrum, including creating a new unlicensed service on GMRS channels. I am further concerned about maintaining the quality and discipline in the GMRS Service.

I would like to first point out that a "very short distance" Radio Service is based on the misconception that communications range can be limited primarily by transmitter power. As GMRS users are well aware, transmitter power is less important than antenna height in determining communications range.

The phrase "Small groups of persons" is used several times in the NPRM. In a 1988 rulemaking, the FCC established that the GMRS should be a Radio Service for personal and family communications, and should not be considered "The other Business Radio Service." GMRS already is a family radio service.

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I am adamantly opposed to the proposal of delicensing a portion of the GMRS. Licensing is the means by which the FCC, in all Radio Services, controls who can and cannot use what spectrum and for what purposes. Mixing licensed and unlicensed uses on the same channels is unworkable. The FCC has previously found that such mixing is intolerable. In the late 1970's the FCC changed the spectrum available from the 27 MHz channels allocated to the then-licensed citizens Band Radio Service, to new channels in the 49 MHz band, the FCC realizing the need to separate licensed and unlicensed users.

There seems to be some confusion about very low power operations on the 467 MHz interstitial frequencies. The 467 MHz interstitial are not located between repeater transmitting channels, but between repeater **receiving** channels.

As a REACT CB Emergency Channel 9 monitor I cannot explain to you my frustration in listening to the intentional CB interference caused by unlicensed operators who know they are not going to be caught as they have no call identification. Foul language, illegal power amplifier that splatter over all 40 channels, profane language, discourteous operator behavior and intentional false emergency calls are the norm for the Citizens Band Radio Service which was unlicensed many years ago.

Why hasn't the FCC cleaned up this Radio Service. When we call to complain we are told the FCC is too busy and do not have enough personnel to chase after someone who does not have a call sign. And now with Government "downsizing" resulting in radical cuts in personnel in investigative and enforcement activities of the FCC's compliance and information Bureau, please don't try and tell me things are going to get better.

So I ask myself, why would the FCC try and move this CB type of Radio Operator behavior to the disciplined licensed GMRS, and then delicense part of it and assign frequencies that are guaranteed to interfere with GMRS repeaters?. You people give me heartburn. Please, stop, backup, take a deep breath and look at what you're proposing. A UHF CB disaster.

On the technical standards proposed in the NPRM I also have some problems. The claim that numerous factors limit the interference potential of these FRS units is without basis in fact. The 12.5 KHz separation from the GMRS primary channels would be entirely insufficient because the technology employed has an emission envelope (including deviation level, significant audio sidebands, and frequency stability) of 18 to 20 KHz. The interstitial channels are not just "in between" channels, but overlapping ones. If using of the overlapping 467 Mhz

interstitial frequencies were to be permitted, the repeater stations suffering interference would not be able to change channels. Worse, the stations causing interference would be totally unaware of the situation (and in an unlicensed service, totally unmotivated to change to alternative frequencies).

Therefore, FRS operation on the overlapping 467 MHz interstitial frequencies would be extremely disruptive to repeater receivers. The stations being interfered with would be unable to change channels. The station causing the interference would be unaware of their impact, and would have no particular motivation to change channels. The use of the overlapping 467 MHz interstitial frequencies by FRS transmitters is totally unacceptable to the GMRS repeater user community.

The FCC stated that the "FM capture effect" would reduce interference from FRS units to conventional GMRS operations. Exactly the opposite is true. The capture effect would guarantee that interference would be caused by FRS transmitters operating on frequencies that overlap repeater receiver channels in the 467 MHz band. The technical difficulties with this NPRM are just like the Energizer Battery Bunny, they go on and on and on.

But I do have a solution. In supporting the concept of an unlicensed, very short range Two-Way voice radio service, I would propose to the FCC to consider the use of the existing low power, unlicensed, very short range Radio Services including Part 15 devices at 49mhz, and the Part 95 (CB) Transceivers at 27mhz. Why would, with some changes in the technical regulations, this not be adequate. If antenna size for transceivers is a problem for manufacturers, then why not place the FRS in the higher Part 15 bands, were such unlicensed use is already permitted? I would suggest the Part 15 bands of 902mhz and 2.4 Ghz. That's where the FRS belongs.

I once again ask the Commission to leave the GMRS alone. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. I cannot tell you, how many times I have turned off my CB emergency channel 9 radio because of illegal use and been told nothing can be done because they don't use call signs. I don't want to have this happen to GMRS, as we have nowhere else to go for disciplined communications. The FRS, using inexpensive, mass-produced radios with contemporary digital technology could be located in higher frequency "Part 15" bands where there would be minimal or no interference to existing users, and where unlicensed operations is already permitted. Once again, that's where the FRS belongs. As the Commission learned years ago, mixing licensed and unlicensed operations on the same channels promotes confusion, interference and disruptive behavior. I don't want to turn off my GMRS radio because it's become a UHF Citizens Band disaster.